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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Date: January 6, 2009

Re: Jose Gonzales- Murderer denied parole

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Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Jose Gonzales, age 54 , formerly of Patterson, was found unsuitable for parole at a December 29, 2008 hearing of the State Board of Prison Hearings at Corcoran State Prison. Senior Deputy District Attorney Doug Maner appeared at the hearing in order to oppose this inmate's parole request. However, before the hearing could commence, the inmate waived his right to a parole hearing, and requested a five-year parole denial. The Board of Prison Hearings agreed and denied parole for an additional five years.

On February 20, 1988, Gonzales shot his wife twice during an argument, and then fled with his children to another state where he was committed to a mental hospital. He claimed that he did not intend to shoot her, but merely fired his gun into what he thought was an empty room. The inmate was convicted of Murder with the use of a gun in 1990, and was sentenced to 17 years to life.

Gonzales has steadfastly refused to take responsibility for this crime, blaming his actions on excessive alcohol intake and/or mental illness. Gonzales has refused to comply with prison authority's plans for his treatment and has had a series of violent altercations with staff and inmates over the years. This was his 6th parole hearing.

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